

To whom it may concern;

Thank you for this opportunity to testify by email on the subject of gun violence. Because I am a family therapist with a private practice, I am unable to be in Hartford with you in person.

Let me tell you personally that the shootings in Newtown have been catalyst for increased, and very strong, feelings that there is a need in our state, and in our nation, for effective gun controls. The tears and fears that I witness in my practice assure me that I am not alone in speaking out in favor of changes in our laws.

We rely on you, our legislators, to express the will of the people. I am asking you, encouraging you, imploring you...to act, to provide us with effective gun controls.

I believe that the following represent the minimal gun legislation we deserve, and require, for the safety of every citizen:

Proper gun legislation must do the following as a minimum:

1. Prohibit ownership of functioning, military-type weapons such as assault weapons;
2. Prohibit ownership of multiple-round ammunition clips and bullets designed to ensure death either with explosive tips or designed to not pass through the human body;
3. All hand gun and hunting weaponry owners must have improved background checks, mental health checks, and database registry.
4. No weapons that have been purchased or are improperly registered may be grandfathered. Current owners must re-register legal weapons for a small fee. Assault-type rifles must be bought back based on collection of aforementioned fees.
5. Gun safety laws should make gun owners liable for negligent storage if another person gains access to firearms and/or causes damage to life or property.
6. Gun laws should ban the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition purchased over the internet.
7. Ammunition sales should be taxed and a gun license/permit required in order to purchase ammunition.
8. Restrict handgun sales to one gun per month.
9. Gun laws should also take into consideration how to appropriately re-license gun owners when/if/as their mental state changes.
10. As a general proscribed practice, gun owners must demonstrate capability for maintaining gun safety and document some required number of practice hours annually on a gun range.

My testimony is long, and perhaps tedious; I am sorry if so. My intention, to support sufficient change in the law to keep everyone of us safer than we have been, is simple. I see no conflict between my insistence on responsible and recorded, licensed, use of non-military guns in the citizenry with our Second Amendment right to bear arms.

I am a grandmother, I am a mother, and I am a voter. Please do the right thing to promote and ensure safety from gun violence in our state, in our nation, and for each and every one of us as human beings. Remove the shadow of fear that surrounds every child in CT, in America I suspect, as parents say "have a good day" and blow kisses at bus stops. The right of each person to own a gun does not trump each person's sacred right to life!

Thank you,

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